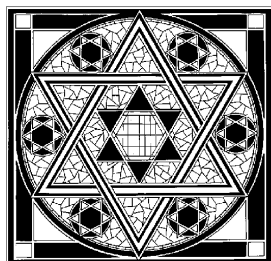


CHAVURAH ACTIVITY GUIDE

The Chavurah Activity Guide is the Education Committee's compilation of books, movies, speakers, T'kun Olam ideas, and activities that Judea Reform members have enjoyed. We hope your chavurah will find the guide useful and add activities your chavurah has particularly enjoyed. Contact the Education Committee to contribute your suggestions.



Books

Authors (All books by these authors are worth reading)

Novels

Biography

Non Fiction

Authors who focus on Jewish themed novels

- ✧ **Saul Bellow**, Nobel prize winning author whose most famous books include *Herzog* and the *Adventures of Augie March*.
- ✧ **Norman Mailer**, Jewish American author and co-founder of the *Village Voice*, *The Naked and the Dead*
- ✧ **Bernard Malamud**, Jewish American author whose novels include *The Fixer*, *The Natural*, and *The Assistant*.
- ✧ **Chaim Potok**, Jewish American author and Rabbi whose novels include *The Chosen* and *The Promise*.
- ✧ **Philip Roth**, novels that deal with Jewish identity from adolescence to old age.
- ✧ **Herman Wouk**, Pulitzer Prize winning author who wrote *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance* about World War II.
- ✧ **Elie Wiesel**, author, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Peace prize winner who wrote *Night* about his experiences in a concentration camp.

Authors who write about Judaism and faith

- ✧ **Karen Armstrong**, religious scholar and former Nun wrote about the three monotheistic faiths including *The History of God*, *The Battle for God*, and *Jerusalem, One City Three Faiths*.
- ✧ **Harold Kushner**, Rabbi who wrote *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*
- ✧ **Lawrence Kushner**, Rabbi who wrote *God Was in This Place*, *The Book of Letters*, *Honey from the Rock*, and *The River of Light*.
- ✧ **Naomi Levy**, Rabbi who wrote *Talking to God* and *To Begin Again*

Novels

- ✧ *Tevye the Dairyman*, Shalom Aleichem
- ✧ *The Lemon Tree*, Sandy Tolan
- ✧ *Mixed Blessings*, Rachel and Paul Cowan

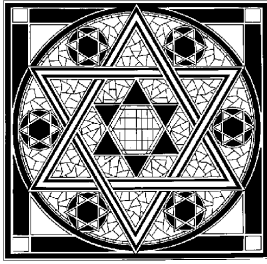
- ☆ *Turbulent Souls*, Stephen Dubner
- ☆ *Lovesong*, Julius Lester
- ☆ *The Red Tent*, Anita Diamant retells the story of Dinah
- ☆ *Rashi's Daughters (3 books)*, Maggie Anton, a look at Rashi's life through the eyes of his daughters.
- ☆ *Joy Comes in the Morning* and *The Talmud and the Internet* by Jonathan Rosen
- ☆ *The People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks---The fictionalized story of the survival of the Sarajevo Haggadah from its creation in the 15th century to today.
- ☆ *Yiddish Policeman's Union* and *Amazing Adventures of Clavier and Clay* by Michael Chabon
- ☆ *Puttermessaer Papers and The Shawl* by Cynthia Ozick
- ☆ *Katerskill Falls and The Family Markowitz* by Allegra Goodman
- ☆ *Call It Sleep* by Henry Roth, novel about growing up in the lower east side in the 1920's.
- ☆ *Exodus and Mila 18* by Leon Uris

Biographical Books

- ☆ *The Color of Water* by James McBride: The son of a black minister and a Jewish woman, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely protective woman, herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades and commanded respect.
- ☆ *The Provincials, Sundays were the Loneliest Days, Biography of Judah Benjamin* by Eli Evans

Non-Fiction Books

- ☆ *The Wicked Son* by David Mamet, a discourse about anti-Semitism.
- ☆ *World of Our Fathers* by Irving Howe, a history of Manhattan's lower east side
- ☆ *The Iron Wall*, Avi Shlaim, revisionist interpretation about the founding and early history of Israel
- ☆ *Gonzo Judaism*, Niles Goldstein
- ☆ *The Sabbath*, A. J. Heschel
- ☆ *A Year of Living Biblically*, A.J. Jacobs



Movies

Classics

Contemporary Movies

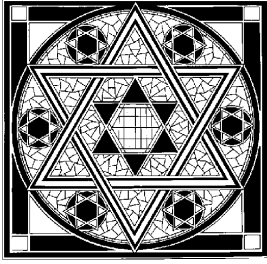
Classics

- ☆ *The Great Dictator (1940)* Charlie Chaplin' classic portrayal of Hitler
- ☆ *Gentleman's Agreement (1947)* Gentile tries out a Jewish identity to experience anti-Jewish prejudice in post World War II America.
- ☆ *Exodus (1960)* An adaptation of Leon Uris's novel with Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint, Lee J. Cobb, and Sal Mineo.
- ☆ *Fiddler on the Roof (1971)* The musical.
- ☆ *The Sorrow and the Pity (1971)* Anti-Semitism in Vichy France
- ☆ *Hester Street (1975)*. Interesting, now seen as classic by many, treatment of Jewish immigrants on the Lower East Side around 1896. Explores the struggle between desires for assimilation and maintenance of traditional ways and values.
- ☆ *Holocaust (1978)* A TV mini-series with, among others, Meryl Streep and Michael Moriarty, interweaves the stories of two German families, one Jewish and the other Gentile, against the background of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Won numerous EMMY, Golden Globe, and other awards.
- ☆ *The Chosen (1981)* Adaptation of Potok's novel.
- ☆ *Masada (1981)* BBC Television production starring Peter O'Toole and others.
- ☆ *Yentl (1983)* Barbara Streisand extravaganza.
- ☆ *Au Revoir, Les Enfants (1987)* Story of two children in a French school during WWII
- ☆ *Woody Allen Movies* – Wonderful comedies that star Woody Allen in all his neurotic Jewish splendor.
- ☆ *Mel Brooks Comedies* – For a good laugh

Contemporary Movies

- ☆ *Schindler's List (1993)* Directed by Steven Spielberg.
- ☆ *Kadosh (1999)* A beautiful, but disturbing movie (Hebrew with subtitles) about an ultra orthodox couple who cannot have children.
- ☆ *Keeping the Faith (2000)* A romantic comedy
- ☆ *Kissing Jessica Stein (2001)* a romantic comedy about a young, Jewish woman's trials and tribulations in her search for true love.
- ☆ *Kedma (2002)* Hebrew with sub-titles, the story of founding of Israel from an unromanticized point-of-view.
- ☆ *Broken Wings (2002)* Hebrew with sub-titles.
- ☆ *Nina's Trajadies (2003)* Hebrew with sub-titles.
- ☆ *Alila (2003)* Hebrew with sub-titles
- ☆ *Campfire (2004)* Hebrew with sub-titles, about the coming-of-age struggles of contemporary teenagers in Israel

- ✧ ***Or* (2004)** Hebrew with sub-titles, a survival story of two women struggling against poverty and prostitution in modern day Tel Aviv.
- ✧ ***Ushpizin* (2005)**. In Hebrew with subtitles. The story of a couple who are down on their luck. Right before Succoth, they receive a large sum of money as well as two uninvited guests
- ✧ ***Munich* (2005)** Steven Spielberg's award-winning story of the Israeli retribution for the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.
- ✧ ***La Petite Jerusalem* (2005)** French with sub-titles.
- ✧ ***Keeping up with the Steins* (2006)** 13 year old boy remembers relationships with his father and grandfather.
- ✧ ***Sixty-Six* (2006)** A boy's bar mitzvah conflicts with 1966 World Cup final.
- ✧ ***Praying with Lior* (2007)** The story of a Jewish boy with Down's syndrome.
- ✧ ***Secrets* (2007)** This movie is a very entertaining film which takes place in an orthodox woman's seminary in Safed. One of the minor plots in the film is lesbianism and there is some nudity.
- ✧ ***Arranged* (2007)** Story of two young women, one Orthodox Jewish and the other conservative Arab Muslim living in Brooklyn and each coping with the pressures of their traditional cultures and the practices of arranged marriages.
- ✧ ***The Jewish Americans* (2007)** - PBS Production of David Grubin's documentary on the history of the Jews in America.
- ✧ ***Beaufort* (2007)** Hebrew with sub-titles, a war movie about a Jewish military outpost in southern Lebanon.
- ✧ ***Waltz with Bashir* (2008)** Hebrew with sub-titles.
- ✧ ***A Price above Rubies* (2008)** Story of a musical woman whose affairs impact her downfall and then contribute to her rebirth.
- ✧ ***A Serious Man* (2009)** A modern interpretation of the Job story by the Coen Brothers
- ✧ ***Daniel Deronda* (2009)** A BBC television adaptation of George Eliot's novel about a man who discovers he has Jewish origins.



Activities

General

Guest Speakers

T'kun Olam Ideas

General

- ☆ Sponsor an Oneg together.
- ☆ On Rosh Hashanah, have a potluck lunch after services.
- ☆ On Yom Kippur, have a break-the-fast together.
- ☆ Have a game night (board games) at someone's home. Combine this with a dinner - everyone brings their favorite dish
- ☆ Rent Jewish themed movies and have a movie night.
- ☆ Go to the NC Museum of Art and tour the Judaica exhibit.
- ☆ Volunteer together--A day at the Ronald McDonald house in Chapel Hill, for example.
- ☆ Go gleanng.
- ☆ Read a book and discuss it.
- ☆ Have women's (or men's or both) breakfast get together once a month.
- ☆ Have a Tu-Bshvat seder.
- ☆ Build a Sukkoth at a member's house and eat in it.
- ☆ As a Chavurah, go on picnics or hikes, attend concerts or plays, or attend the Triangle Jewish film festival
- ☆ Attend a TJR event like the women's seder, the talent show, "Broadway Melodies," etc together.
- ☆ Eat dinner together and attend the Jewish Film Festival
- ☆ Eat dinner together and attend a Judea Saturday Aleynu
- ☆ Attend lectures together
- ☆ Go to a museum together
- ☆ Learn Israeli dancing as a group
- ☆ Learn Jewish cooking as a group
- ☆ Sponsor an Oneg as a chavurah
- ☆ Build a sukkah
- ☆ Have group discussions about Jewish Identity: For example, raising "Jewish" children or supporting interfaith marriages

Guest Speakers

- ☆ Invite the Rabbi for a topic of your choice
- ☆ Host an aleynu as a group
- ☆ Len Rogoff about the Down Home Project, Jewish Heritage Foundation.

T'kun Olam Ideas

- ☆ Cook a dinner at the Ronald McDonald House
- ☆ Prepare/Serve a meal at the Durham Soup Kitchen
- ☆ Bake casseroles for the soup kitchen as a group
- ☆ Volunteer to tutor at a public school